GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1005
ANSWERED ON:20.08.2007
NON-AVAILABILITY OF STD/ISD/FAX FACILITIES
Siddeswara Shri Gowdar Mallikarjunappa

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in different parts of the country where STD/ISD/FAX facility is still not available;

(b) the steps taken/being taken by Government in this regard; and

(c) the time by which these facilities are likely to be provided?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) to (c) As on 30th June, 2007, 18,118 eligible villages, excluding villages having population less than 100, villages lying in thick forest areas/naxalite infested areas etc., remain to be connected with Village Public Telephones (VPTs). The telephone exchanges, from which these VPTs have been provided, are equipped with STD/ISD/Fax facilities. However, as per the present policy these facilities are extended to the VPT on the request of its custodian and subject to the completion of the requisite formalities by the custodian.